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IN THE CLAIMS:

   1. (Withdrawn).

   2. (Withdrawn).

   3. (Withdrawn).

   4. (Withdrawn).

   5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1 where said second step comprises the steps of:~~ A method executed by a provider of authorizing provision of service to a user comprising:

   a first step of interacting with said user to receive an ID from said user and with a database to receive an ordered list of characters associated with said ID that were selected by said provider;

   a second step of interacting with said user to receive from said user information responsive to requests placed to said user in the course of said interacting, including the sub-steps of

         generating a predetermined number of random numbers ~~variables~~;

         for each random number so generated ~~created in said step of generating~~

         (a) requesting said user to provide a responsive string of characters that is related to said random number,

         (b) receiving said responsive string of characters from said user, and

         (c) flagging a number in said ordered list corresponding to said random number; and

   a third step of authorizing said provision of service when said information received in response to said request corresponds to a subset of entries in said ordered list of characters that is associated with said requests placed to said user, provided that said service is a permitted service for a user who provides said ID.

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2 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 where said requests are communicated over a telephone, and said responsive string of characters is communicated over said telephone.

7. (Withdrawn).

3 8. (Previously Presented) A method of authorizing provision of service to a user comprising the steps of:

receiving a ID from said user;

accessing a database to retrieve N ordered lists of characters associated with said ID, where N is an integer;

generating a predetermined number of random numbers;

for each random number created in said step of generating

(a) requesting said user to provide a responsive set of characters that is related to said random number said requesting, which provides said random number, forming a challenge,

(b) receiving said responsive set of characters from said user, and

(c) flagging a number in each of said N ordered lists corresponding to said random number; and

authorizing said provision of service when the set of responsive numbers received in response to said challenges matches a corresponding set of flagged numbers in any of said N ordered lists of numbers, provided that said service is a permitted service for a user who is associated with the ordered list that matches.

9. (Withdrawn).

10. (Withdrawn).

11. (Withdrawn).

12. (Withdrawn).

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13. (Withdrawn).

14. (Withdrawn).

15. (Withdrawn).

16. (Withdrawn).

17. (Withdrawn).

18. (Withdrawn).

19. (Withdrawn).

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